

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 03966 302054Z

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ACTION SPM-01

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INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE - NGO TRIBUNE

REF: STATE 189126

1. THE POPULATION TRIBUNE, ORGANIZED BY NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS WHO ARE IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL MET IN PARALLEL BUT SEPARATE MEETINGS AT THE SAME TIME THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE MET IN BUCHAREST. THERE WAS STRONG INTER-ACTION BETWEEN THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE TRIBUNE AND INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS ATTENDING THE WPC. THE US DELEGATION HAD CLOSE AND ACTIVE CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN NGO'S AND ASSIGNED A FULL-TIME MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION (MARY HASELTON) TO LIAISON WITH AND RELATE TO THE TRIBUNE AND AMERICAN NGO'S.

2. THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 1400 PEOPLE REGISTERED AT THE TRIBUNE. THREE HUNDRED WERE OFFICIAL OBSERVERS FOR NGO'S IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH ECOSOC. THE REMAINING 1100 REGISTRANTS
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PAGE 02 BUCHAR 03966 302054Z

REGISTERED AS INDIVIDUALS. THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 300 AMERICANS

PRESENT OF WHICH 100 WERE OFFICIAL NGO OBSERVERS.

3. THE FORMAL TRIBUNE PROGRAM CONSISTED OF SIX PLENARY SESSIONS, THIRTY-TWO DIFFERENT PANEL MEETINGS, A SERIES OF FIVE SEPARATE LECTURES, AND A CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSION (80 PAPERS WERE CONTRIBUTED). APPROXIMATELY 80 FILMS WERE SHOWN DURING THE TWO-WEEK PERIOD AND 50 SEPARATE GROUP MEETINGS WERE HELD.

4. THE GOALS OF THE TRIBUNE WERE A) TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON POPULATION ISSUES, TO WORLD-WIDE NGO'S AND THE MEDIA, B) TO ACTIVATE NGO'S TO FOCUS ON POPULATION ISSUES AT BUCHAREST AND AFTER BUCHAREST AND C) TO DISCUSS AND EXPLORE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, SUCH AS ABORTION. IN FACT THE TRIBUNE SERVED AN ADDITIONAL ROLE IN THAT IT WAS A SOUNDING BOARD FOR IDEAS WHICH GOVERNMENTS OFTEN DID NOT THOROUGHLY EXPLORE AT THE WPC ITSELF. IN SEVERAL CASES IT PROVIDED A PLATFORM FOR SPEAKERS AND IDEAS WHICH IMPACTED ON THE WPC ITSELF. CERTAINLY THE STATUS OF WOMEN SPEECHES AT THE TRIBUNE HELPED TO ALERT GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATIONS ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS AND DETERMINATION OF THE SUPPORTERS OF THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENING THIS SUBJECT IN THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION ITSELF.

5. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, III USED THE TRIBUNE AS A VEHICLE FROM WHICH TO EXPRESS HIS CHANGE OF VIEW POINT OF THE POPULATION ISSUE. HE

CALLED FOR A REAPPRAISAL OF ALL THAT HAS BEEN LEARNED ABOUT POPULATION GROWTH AND FAMILY PLANNING - SPECIFICALLY (1) THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION POLICY AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, (2) THE NEED TO REVIEW OUR CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, (3) A RECOGNITION OF THE GROWING INTER-DEPENDENCE OF ALL PEOPLES AND NATIONS, AND (4) THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY.

6. AMERICANS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ORGANIZING FOR THE TRIBUNE.

MRS. SOSALIND W. HARRIS, PRESIDENT OF NGO'S IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH ECOSOC, WAS ORGANIZING CHAIRMAN OF THE TRIBUNE PLANNING COMMITTEE, WHILE BERNARD BERELSON, PRESIDENT OF THE POPULATION COUNCIL, AND RICHARD FAGLEY, COMMISSIONER OF CHURCHES ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WERE BOTH MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

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PAGE 03 BUCAR 03966 302054Z

7. DURING THE COURSE OF THE TRIBUNE MEETING THE US NGO'S ORGANIZED THEMSELVES AND FORMED A STEERING COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH THE US DELEGATION AND WITH THE US NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF WORLD POPULATION YEAR. THE SEVEN-PERSON COMMITTEE (DAVID POINDEXTER, CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATIONS, UNA-USA; DR. MARGARET MEAD; MILDRED PERSINGER, YWCA; CHAPLIN BARNES, AUDUBON SOCIETY; JEANNIE ROSOFF, PLANNED PARENTHOOD; LUCY WEBSTER, WORLD FEDERALISTS; AND CAROLYN TUMARKIN, NEW YORK) WERE KEENLY

AWARE OF THE NGO'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND TO WORK WITH THE US GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO CARRY OUT THE GOALS OF THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE AND THE WORLD POPULATION YEAR.

8. THIS US STEERING COMMITTEE HAS ORGANIZED AN NGO MEETING IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 12 AS A FIRST STEP IN STIMULATING BROAD US NGO INTEREST AND CONCERN IN THE RESULTS OF THE WPC.

9. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TRIBUNE PROVIDED THAT THEY WOULD NOT ISSUE ANY RESOLUTIONS IN THE NAME OF THE TRIBUNE. HOWEVER, VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS AT THE CLOSE OF THE TRIBUNE AND THE CONFERENCE PREPARED A "STATEMENT FROM BUCHAREST" WHICH HAS BEEN SIGNED BY SOME 500 PEOPLE TO DATE WHICH CALLS UPON GOVERNMENTS TO RECOGNIZE THE URGENT AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION OF THE WORLD TODAY "WHICH WILL STRAIN THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAN'S SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES TO THE BREAKING POINT". IT APPEALS TO ALL NGO'S TO WORK WITH THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS AND UN AGENCIES ON THE PROBLEMS OF POPULATION. FULL TEXT SENT SEPTEL.
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